
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ THANKS THOUSANDS WHO TOOK PART IN VOTING MACHINE DEMOS

"This was a tremendous exercise in Democracy."

Following a week in which more than 2,000 people throughout the State of Connecticut sampled new voting technology, **Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz** thanked the citizens of Connecticut for "taking part in what was no doubt a showcase of Democracy at its best."

The University of Connecticut's Department of Public Policy arranged the five demonstrations of three new voting machines last week in Manchester, Willimantic, Woodbridge, Bridgeport, and Southbury – one in each of Connecticut's five Congressional Districts. The university surveyed participants about which machines they preferred and why. More than 2,000 people came out to test the new machines and offer their comments.

Secretary Bysiewicz said the data currently being gathered from these surveys will play a significant role in which machine is chosen - the ATM-style machine from Avante International Technology of New Jersey, the pushbutton style machine from Danaher Controls of Simsbury, CT, or the ATM-style machine from Diebold Election Systems of Ohio.

"This is the first time the people of Connecticut have been given such an opportunity to help choose which voting machines they prefer using, and I am proud at the wonderful turnout we had on all five days. Citizens are genuinely tuned in to the electoral process and want to play a part, and that is good news for all of us," **Secretary Bysiewicz** said.

"The ruling two months ago by the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) that all lever voting machines must go before the 2006 elections certainly put us under the gun to find new voting technology that works for Connecticut," **Secretary Bysiewicz** added. "To this day we still await word as to whether that ruling meant one new machine per voting precinct or actually replacing all 3,300 of our state's lever machines. But whatever the ultimate ruling is, we will be ready, thanks in large part to the participation of our citizens. I thank them all for giving their time to help us make this work."

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